

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 227182

44

ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SCS-03 SCA-01 PPT-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 DHA-02 SY-05 /069 R

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE STATE 227182

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PROP, CASC (LESLIE, JACQUES)

SUBJECT: L.A. TIMES CORRESPONDENT LESLIE

REF: NEW DELHI 12768

1. IN CONVERSATION WITH DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY DUBS
23 SEPTEMBER, INDIAN DCM VENKETESWARAN CONFIRMED THAT THE
INDIAN EMBASSY HAD TOLD THE L.A. TIMES THAT LESLIE WOULD
FACE EXPULSION FROM INDIA IF HE WERE NOT VOLUNTARILY
WITHDRAWN. VENKETESWARAN SAID THAT LESLIE HAD BEEN WARNED
TWICE ABOUT ARTICLES HE HAD WRITTEN WHOSE SUBJECT MATTER
WAS PROHIBITED BY THE DEFENSE OF INDIA ACT AND THE MAINTENANCE
OF INTERNAL SECURITY ACT. HE INDICATED THAT THE CHANCES ARE
THAT LESLIE WILL BE EXPELLED SINCE THE L.A. TIMES HAS
EVIDENTLY REFUSED TO WITHDRAW HIM.

2. DUBS INDICATED THAT ON THE BASIS OF LESLIE'S ARTICLES
THE L.A. TIMES FINDS IT DIFFICULT TO DISCERN ANY BASIS FOR
LESLIE'S EXPULSION. OBVIOUSLY, THE DEPARTMENT WOULD OBJECT
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PAGE 02 STATE 227182

AND PROTEST THE EXPULSION IF IT OCCURRED JUST AS WE HAVE

DONE IN SIMILAR CASES IN THE PAST. DUBS FURTHER NOTED THAT
THE TIMING OF THE EXPULSION WAS ESPECIALLY UNFORTUNATE
IN THE LIGHT OF THE FORTHCOMING VISIT OF FOREIGN MINISTER
CHAVAN AND THAT SUCH AN ACTION ON THE PART OF THE INDIAN

GOVERNMENT WOULD NOT GO UNNOTICED IN THE U.S. ROBINSON

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Message Attributes

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To: NEW DELHI
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